

REMARKS

This Reply to Office Action is responsive to the Office Action mailed on April 6, 2006.

Claims 1 and 2 are pending in the present application. Applicants have amended claim 1, canceled claim 2 and added claims 3-4. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-4 are now at issue.

With this Reply, Applicants submit a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time, making Applicants' Reply due on or before September 6, 2006. Accordingly, Applicants' Reply is timely filed.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under §102(b) as being anticipated by *Caveney* (U.S. 2,921,607). The Examiner also rejected claims 1 and 2 under §102(b) as being anticipated by *VanderVelde* (U.S. 6,437,243). Applicants submit that claim 1, as amended, is patentable over the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination. New claims 3 and 4 are asserted to be allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 1.

Claim 1, as amended, recites “ . . . wherein each of said at least two fingers of each of said side wall portions further includes at least one support rib that contacts said cover when said cover is in a fully open position relative to said manager.” As discussed in specification paragraphs [0047] and [0048] and as shown in Figs. 21-26, curved lip 35 includes one or more support ribs 80. Preferably, as best seen in Fig. 22, curved lip 35 includes three support ribs 80. In addition to providing extra strength to the fingers, ribs 80 may preferably also provide additional contact area on the finger with the edge of the cover so that inadvertent disengagement of the cover is less likely. As seen in Figs. 24-26, the ribs may thus move the pivot point to shorten the effective lever arm of the torquing force, and thereby lessen the torque actually applied at the hinge by a given opening force applied to the fully opened cover.

Applicants submit that *Caveney* does not disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of amended claim 1. The Examiner contends that *Caveney* discloses fingers 6 having support ribs 47 that cooperate with cover 25. However, contrary to the Examiner's contention and as discussed in Col. 3, lines 12-14, *Caveney* discloses a spring clip 47 to be used for fastening the wiring duct 1 into position on a control panel 19 as shown in Fig. 5. Fingers 6 do not include spring clip 47, as required by amended claim 1. Moreover, spring clip 47 does not contact cover plate 25 when cover plate 25 is in a fully open position relative to wiring duct 1, as also required by amended claim 1, because *Caveney* discloses a wiring duct having a snap-on cover plate 25. Thus, fingers 6 do not permit cover plate 25 to be alternatively rotatable relative to either side walls 3 and 4, as further required by claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over *Caveney*. Claims 3 and 4 are asserted to be allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 1.

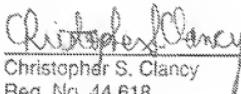
Applicants also submit that *VanderVelde* does not disclose the limitations of amended claim 1. The Examiner contends that *VanderVelde* discloses fingers 24 including support ribs 44. However, contrary to the Examiner's contention, fingers 24 do not include any structure that could be construed as "at least one support rib," as required by amended claim 1. As discussed in Col. 5, lines 34-37, cover assembly 18, not fingers 24, includes latches 44. As best shown in Fig. 3, a plurality of discrete latches 44 are disposed at spaced locations on each respective second compartment 42 for securing the cover assembly 18 to the duct 16. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over *VanderVelde*. Claims 3 and 4 are asserted to be allowable based on their dependency from allowable claim 1.

New dependent claim 3 recites "wherein each hook protrusion is positioned on a finger at a distal end of each side wall portion." As best seen in Fig. 21, the fingers including support ribs 80 are positioned at each end of the cable manager on each side thereof. Applicants submit that this feature is not disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited prior art, taken alone or in combination.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that claims 1 and 3-4 are allowable and reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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